

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11, 13-23, 25, 32, 33 and 35-38 were considered in the Office Action and stand as previously presented.

5           Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-11, 13-23, 25 and 32 are allowed.

Claims 33 and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowery, U.S. Patent 6,504,301 and further in view of Takagi, U.S. Patent 6,791,150.

10           Regarding the rejection of claims 33 and 35-38, Applicants' representative respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that "GaN based diodes are known in the art as laser diodes" and therefore submits that Lowery does not disclose a laser diode. GaN-based diodes include traditional light emitting diodes that produce incoherent  
15           light by spontaneous emission, as well as laser diodes that produce coherent light by stimulated emission.

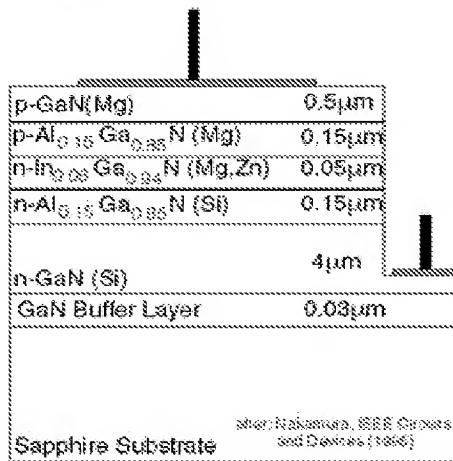
          Evidence of the existence of both GaN LEDs and GaN laser diodes may be found in the "Blue Laser Report", Gerhard Fasol PhD, 9/15/2004, version 6.1, at  
20           <http://eurotechnology.com/bluelaser/blueslide1.html>.

          See, for example, slide 11 that describes a GaN LED having multiple layers, including an indium doped layer, on a sapphire substrate  
(<http://eurotechnology.com/bluelaser/blueslide11.html>):

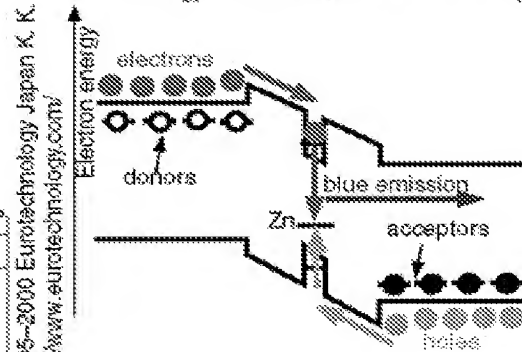
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## WHAT IS A BLUE LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED)

(a) A light-emitting semiconductor diode (LED) or a laser diode (LD) both consist of a stack of extremely thin and precisely grown semiconductor layers of different materials



(b) A light emitting diode (LED) consists of a stack of n-type (left hand side) and a stack of p-type (right hand side) material, forming a "p-n junction". Electrons (red) and holes (green) follow the potential gradient of an applied voltage and recombine in the region of the p-n junction. The photons of the emitted light have an energy similar to the value of the energy gap.



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In contrast, see slide 12 that describes a GaN laser diode as a device having a resonant optical cavity (<http://eurotechnology.com/bluelaser/blueslide12.html>):

## WHAT IS A LASER DIODE? (LD)

- LASER = Light Amplification by Stimulate Emission of Radiation
- Every laser consists of a light amplifier (which amplifies light by stimulated emission) combined with an optical resonant cavity; Laser = Light Amplifier + Resonant Cavity
- In most semiconductor lasers, the light amplifier and the resonant cavity are grown in the same structure, are strongly interlinked and some components may be shared.
  - ◆ **Light Amplifier:** a light amplifier increases the intensity of light in a certain wavelength range, when it is pumped above a threshold. Above this threshold, "stimulated emission" occurs. A light amplifier can be "pumped" electrically, optically, or by other methods. In the case of a semiconductor laser diode, pumping is optically in the first stages of research, however for devices pumping is almost always electrically
    - in a semiconductor Laser Diode (LD) the light amplifier consists of a structure similar to a light emitting diode (LED) with a pn-junction. However, the requirements for accuracy of design, accuracy of growth, purity, freedom from impurities and crystal defects are much more stringent than for LEDs.
  - ◆ **Resonant Optical Cavity:** an optical cavity has certain resonant frequencies. When the amplification spectrum of a light amplifier within a resonant cavity coincides with the resonant frequencies of the optical cavity lasing can occur.
    - The resonant cavity of a semiconductor laser can in the simplest case consist of the cleaved (broken) edges of the semiconductor, or in more sophisticated cases of multi-layer dielectric mirrors.
    - A resonant cavity has "eigen-modes" or resonant modes, the transmission spectrum, the reflection spectrum, spontaneous noise spectrum of a well-formed resonant cavity shows narrow peaks.

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(Note that the sapphire substrate is not used for its optical properties as a resonant optical cavity, but merely as a substrate because of the lack of GaN substrate wafers. See <http://eurotechnology.com/bluelaser/blueslide19.html>.)

Applicants' representative notes the explicit definitions of a laser diode and an LED given in Applicants' specification at page 5, lines 3-10:

"As used herein, "laser diode" refers to a device having a stack of semiconductor layers, including a double heterostructure and an active region which emits light when biased to produce an electrical current flow through the device, a optical resonator, and contacts attached to the stack. "LED" or "light emitting diode" refers to a device having stack of semiconductor layers (a "chip"), including an active region which emits light when biased

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to produce an electrical current flow through the device, and contacts attached to the stack, provided the LED has no double heterostructure and no optical resonator."

5 In light of the fact that both GaN LEDs and GaN laser diodes are known, it appears to Applicants' representative that Lowery refers to a traditional LED, not a laser diode. See, for example, the explicit use of the term LED rather than laser diode in Lowery, col. 1, lines 45-50:

10 "However, a type of LED based on Gallium Nitride (GaN) has recently been developed that can efficiently emit light having a peak wavelength in the blue region of the spectrum, i.e., blue light. This new type of LED can provide significantly brighter output light than traditional LEDs."

15 Lowery further describes the GaN LED at col. 4, lines 38-41:

20 "Preferably, the LED dies are gallium nitride-based LEDs (indium doped, gallium nitride on sapphire) that emit blue light when activated by an applied electrical signal."

25 Lowery gives relatively detailed descriptions of a GaN LED, including the indium doped gallium nitride and the sapphire substrate, which are described in the "Blue Laser Report" cited above and distinguished from GaN laser diodes. Given Lowery's detailed description of the GaN LED and the explicit use of the term "LED" rather than laser diode, Applicants' representative believes that Lowery does not disclose or suggest a GaN laser diode.

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In view of the above, all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,  
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